

## ***SECCS July 2005 11<sup>th</sup> Edition***

The State Early Childhood Comprehensive Steering Committee is finalizing the Strategic Plan for California that will be submitted to the Health Resources Services Administration. Once approval is received, California can begin the implementation phase. We would like your feedback in order to corroborate the draft plan with the perspectives of providers, parents and policy makers throughout California. Given the intent of this grant, inclusiveness is critical to successful implementation. It is important that local organizations, service providers and parents have some knowledge about the proposed SECCS goals and objectives designed to support children and their families as they make natural but challenging transitions in early childhood. To date, SECCS has gathered information from interviews and focus groups done throughout the state with parents, providers and policy makers that offer insight into the needs of individuals and communities.

***As a next step in the planning process, we are asking for your help. We would appreciate your review and comment on the attached goals and objectives of the strategic plan as related to the planning for, and implementation, of improved early childhood systems.***

Please feel free to make comments on the document either electronically or hand written, and return by August 5, 2005 to:

Electronically: [ebuchana@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ebuchana@dhs.ca.gov)

Snail Mail: Ellen Buchanan  
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Sacramento, California 95899-7420

If you have a group that is able to review this plan, in a focus group format, please contact Wendy Wayne, Project Coordinator at 661 204-8840. .

The proposed SECCS goals are:

1. To create statewide momentum and support for integrating early childhood comprehensive services in California
2. To ensure that coordinated and integrated prevention, early identification and intervention services are available to all children prenatal to five years and their families
3. To ensure that policy makers and service providers have multi-disciplinary training in order to delivery high quality, integrated services to children and families

4. To maximize funds that are directed toward services for children and families
5. To collect and analyze data in order to ensure optimal care for children and families
6. To ensure that the strengths of families are maximized and they are involved in decision making.

This month, the exciting project highlighted is in Alameda County. First 5 Alameda County, Every Child Counts (ECC) creates interlocking programs in the three environments where young children's lives are most directly and significantly impacted: at home, in child care and in the community. To achieve lasting changes in these environments, Every Child Counts included among its goals, "Systems reform for sustainable impact." Here are a few of the impressive programs:

- **Another Road to Safety (ARS)** is pioneering a new service delivery approach using community based agencies to support families referred to child welfare but whose cases do not warrant an investigation. Staff from social services have shifted their focus from looking at how many children were brought into the system to how many children were safely at home.
- **Healthy Steps** - provides a Child Development Specialist (CDS) in pediatric practices. Early identification of children with developmental and mental health needs and comprehensive parent support and education are provided in a setting where parents commonly seek care and advice. There are 4 Healthy Steps in pediatric practices in neighborhoods with low performing schools.
- **Specialty Provider Team** is a multidisciplinary team with expertise in mental health, child development, substance use, and lactation concerns that provide consultation to program staff working with Every Child Counts.
- **ECChange** is an integrated cross-agency data and case management information system. It allows case managers to assess family risk, develop family care plans, track immunization and growth status of children, record referrals to needed community resources and collect agency-specific data on-line. All Intensive Family Support Services providers now use ECChange to access a cross-agency view of clients who are served by multiple agencies.
- **Partners in Collaboration (PIC)** is a cross-disciplinary training project that pairs Early Care and Education Mentor Teachers with Mental Health Consultants to provide program and child-specific consultation in preschools. PIC was developed to improve upon the services the Mental Health Consultants and the Mentors already provide. Mental Health consultants gain a deeper understanding of early child development and classroom dynamics and the Mentors will be equipped to serve those classrooms that are in need of, but do not currently receive mental health services.

For more information about Every Child Counts, visit their website at [www.ackids.org](http://www.ackids.org)

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email [wewayne@kern.org](mailto:wewayne@kern.org) or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840.

Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccs/seccsfacts.htm>